(b) and (c) The Government is aware about problems being faced by the producers of fruits, vegetables and flowers. The Working Group on Horticulture constituted by the Planning Commission for the Tenth Five Year Plan have identified various constraints in the development of horticulture. Some of the major constraints identified are inadequate availability of disease free quality planting material, slow dissemination and adaptability of improved high yielding cultivars/hybrids, inadequate facility for identification of nutrient deficiency and disorders, inadequacy of technologies in value addition, inadequate post harvest management infrastructure, weak database and poor market intelligence, instability of price and poor credit support. Despite the constraints, the farmers have not stopped the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and flowers and the production has increased.

(d) The Government has been addressing the problems and constraints through various Plan schemes. With effect from October 2000, nine schemes on horticulture development were subsumed unde the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/ Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. The Scheme provides flexibility to the State Governments to take up programmes as per the felt needs and requirement of the crop and region including crops which have potential for exports. Besides, the National Horticulture Board is addressing the issues of commercial horticulture and post harvest management needs under their schemes.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is also implementing various programmes for promoting exports of horticulture produce.

Agricultural contribution in GDP

†1070. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product of the country has continuously been declining during past decades;

(b) if so, the percentage of this contribution at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the estimated percentage thereof at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The contribution of Agriculture Sector including forestry and fishing, to GDP in absolute terms at current prices has been continuously increasing during the past decades. However, the share of this contribution to GDP has been showing continuous decline in the past decades reaching the level of 25 percent at the end of the Ninth Plan from about 57 percent in 1950-51. The estimated percentage share of the sector in GDP at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan is not available as the Tenth Plan (2002-07) is not yet approved by the National Development Council.

Decline in agricultural production due to drought

†1071. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) has expressed apprehensions regarding decline in the total production of agriculture in the current financial year, due to drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a possibility of decline in the rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to the above decline; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to contain the decline in the rate of GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In May 2002, the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) projected a growth of 2.0% in real GDP in agriculture for 2002-03 compared with 5.7% in 2001-02. Taking into account the impact of drought, the CMIE indicated in August 2002 a decline of 2.5% in real GDP in agriculture for 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The CMIE had based its forecast on the basis of weak monsoon till the end of July. However, monsoon revived subsequently and more areas were brought under cultivation. Therefore, the impact of weak monsoon may not be as severe as apprehended earlier. Further, keeping in view the need to compensate farmers for the losses suffered in unirrigated areas and the additional expenditure incurred in irrigated areas, the government announced special Drought Relief price ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal for kharif crops of 2002-03 season. States have been assisted through advance release in August 2002 of the Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) due in November, 2002 amounting in all to Rs. 1227.29 crores. Besides, 19.25 lakh tones of foodgrains free of cost have also been allocated for generation of relief employment. The High Level Committee has approved assistance of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.